of reason in both sexes, for if men eat of the tree of knowledge, wom[illegible] come in for a taste; but, from the imperfect cultivation which their [illegible] standings now receive, they only attain a knowledge of evil.[2]

Children, I grant, should be innocent; but when the epithet is ap[illegible] men, or women, it is but a civil term for weakness. For if it be allow[illegible] women were destined by Providence to acquire human virtues, and [illegible] exercise of their understandings, that stability of character which is the [illegible]est ground to rest our future hopes upon, they must be permitted to [illegible] the fountain of light, and not forced to shape their course by the twinkl[illegible] a mere satellite. Milton, I grant, was of a very different opinion; for he [illegible] bends to the indefeasible right of beauty, though it would be difficult to [illegible]der two passages which I now mean to contrast, consistent. But into [illegible] inconsistencies are great men often led by their senses.

> To whom thus Eve with *perfect beauty* adorn'd.
> My Author and Disposer, what thou bidst
> *Unargued* I obey; So God ordains;
> God is *thy law, thou mine:* to know no more
> Is Woman's *happiest* knowledge and her *praise.*[3]

These are exactly the arguments that I have used to children; but I [illegible] added, your reason is now gaining strength, and, till it arrives at some [illegible] of maturity, you must look up to me for advice—then you ought to *think*, [illegible] only rely on God.

Yet in the following lines Milton seems to coincide with me; when [illegible] makes Adam thus expostulate with his Maker.

> Hast thou not made me here thy substitute,
> And these inferior far beneath me set?
> Among *unequals* what society
> Can sort, what harmony or true delight?
> Which must be mutual, in proportion due
> Giv'n and receiv'd; but in *disparity*
> The one intense, the other still remiss
> Cannot well suit with either, but soon prove
> Tedious alike: of *fellowship* I speak
> Such as I seek, fit to participate
> All rational delight—[4]

In treating, therefore, of the manners of women, let us, disregarding [illegible] sual arguments, trace what we should endeavour to make them in order [illegible] co-operate, if the expression be not too bold, with the supreme Being.

By individual education, I mean, for the sense of the word is not precis[illegible] defined, such an attention to a child as will slowly sharpen the senses, [illegible] the temper,[5] regulate the passions as they begin to ferment, and set [illegible] understanding to work before the body arrives at maturity; so that the [illegible] may only have to proceed, not to begin, the important task of learning [illegible] think and reason.

2. Both Adam and Eve ate the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil in the garden of Eden. In the fallen state both men and

3. *Paradise Lost* IV.634–38. The italics are [illegible] stonecraft's.

4. *Paradise Lost* VIII.381–92. The italics [illegible]

[illegible] any misconstruction, I must add, that I do not believe that a [illegible]cation[6] can work the wonders which some sanguine writers have [illegible] in it. Men and women must be educated, in a great degree, by the [illegible] and manners of the society they live in. In every age there has been [illegible] popular opinion that has carried all before it, and given a family [illegible] as it were, to the century. It may then fairly be inferred, that, till [illegible] differently constituted, much cannot be expected from education. [illegible], sufficient for my present purpose to assert, that, whatever [illegible]umstances have on the abilities, every being may become virtuous [illegible] exercise of its own reason; for if but one being was created with [illegible]inations, that is positively bad, what can save us from atheism? or [illegible]ship a God, is not that God a devil?

[illegible]ently, the most perfect education, in my opinion, is such an exer[illegible] the understanding as is best calculated to strengthen the body and [illegible] heart. Or, in other words, to enable the individual to attain such [illegible] of virtue as will render it independent. In fact, it is a farce to call any [illegible]tures whose virtues do not result from the exercise of its own rea[illegible] was Rousseau's opinion respecting men: I extend it to women, and [illegible] assert that they have been drawn out of their sphere by false [illegible], and not by an endeavour to acquire masculine qualities. Still [illegible] homage which they receive is so intoxicating, that till the manners [illegible] are changed, and formed on more reasonable principles, it may [illegible] to convince them that the illegitimate power, which they [illegible] by degrading themselves, is a curse, and that they must return to [illegible] and equality if they wish to secure the placid satisfaction that unso[illegible] affections impart. But for this epoch we must wait—wait, per[illegible] till kings and nobles, enlightened by reason, and, preferring the real [illegible] of man to childish state, throw off their gaudy hereditary trappings: [illegible] then women do not resign the arbitrary power of beauty—they will [illegible] that they have *less* mind than man.

[illegible] be accused of arrogance; still I must declare what I firmly believe, [illegible] all the writers who have written on the subject of female education and [illegible] from Rousseau to Dr. Gregory,[7] have contributed to render women [illegible] artificial, weak characters, than they would otherwise have been; and, [illegible]quently, more useless members of society. I might have expressed this [illegible] in a lower key; but I am afraid it would have been the whine of [illegible], and not the faithful expression of my feelings, of the clear result, [illegible] experience and reflection have led me to draw. When I come to that [illegible] of the subject, I shall advert to the passages that I more particularly [illegible] of, in the works of the authors I have just alluded to; but it is first [illegible] to observe, that my objection extends to the whole purport of those [illegible] which tend, in my opinion, to degrade one half of the human species, [illegible] women pleasing at the expense of every solid virtue.

[illegible]ough, to reason on Rousseau's ground, if man did attain a degree of per[illegible] of mind when his body arrived at maturity, it might be proper, in order [illegible] a man and his wife *one*, that she should rely entirely on his under[illegible]

[illegible] at home.

[illegible]–1773), Scottish physician,

Reader (1789) Wollstonecraft had quoted extensively from Gregory's widely read advice book, *A* [illegible] *to His Daughters* (1774). Here she